

The BLUE & WHITE

The official magazine of the
South Melbourne Hellas Soccer Club Ltd.

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ROUND 4 – 1995/96 Ericsson Cup
South Melbourne v Canberra Cosmos
Sunday 22nd October 1995
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EDITORIAL

Back where we belong

SOCCER IN Australia is said to be heading in a new direction although much of the off-season months have been occupied by press coverage of all of the reported ills of the game.

Crisis seemingly followed crisis and the long-suffering football fans of Australia could well have been forgiven for thinking - 'here we go again'.

This season South Melbourne are entering a brave new era; a brand new stadium just around the corner and waiting to be moved into plus a whole new generation of young players.

Maybe it would have been easier to hang onto the stars of last season and certainly there were some fine players in that squad.

They provided the Blue & White Army with some memorable moments as they charged into a place in the Top Six and then set the playoffs alight with some swashbuckling football.

But the hard decision was made, a decision which was to see a mass exodus of stars and places made available for a new crop of young players.

In time those new faces will go on to become stars in their own right.

But already the club has captured the prestigious Docherty Cup and has made a good start to the season.

A one goal loss at Melbourne Knights is not exactly a devastating result while a win away at Morwell these days is always a good three points.

That sets us up nicely for the visit

of Canberra Cosmos, and the return of a former legend of Middle Park, Paul Wade.

Wadey has been at the heart of many exploits in the blue of South Melbourne and the game promises to be a real cracker.

But the press still seem to be unconvinced that South has the talent to make it to the top.

If the Docherty Cup win wasn't proof, then maybe a steady string of League results will silence the doubters.

It is important that this is a year of success, to justify the faith of those who have worked so hard to make the Lakeside Stadium a reality.

Unfortunately it isn't ready for kick-off today but like Frank Arok says; "it's something worthwhile waiting for."

In the meantime our new-look young team will need time to fully settle into Frank's style of play and they need your support to achieve that.

We've got one piece of silver ware in the trophy room already and it would take a fool to write off this club totally for championship honours come next May.

Look what we did last year with the worst ever start to a season in our history.

Now we have kicked off the new era with success - and there is more of that just around the corner.

South Melbourne fans demand a Top Six team and Frank Arok has that goal clearly in his sights - and then some. A win today would help us well on our way.

One hell of a year



They called him Mad Dog – but Bruce Campbell takes stock of what Frank Arok says as he plots to bring the Championship to Lakeside Stadium.

THEY CALLED him 'Mad Dog' when he was foolish enough to try and outplay the big guns of Scotland in their own World Cup back yard, Hampden Park.

But he was sane enough to pilot his side to an historic draw in Melbourne against a full strength team as the Scots were on their way to yet another finals appearance – part of a European record five straight qualifications.

Now he is in the second year of his tenure at South Melbourne, with his sights set on other targets, targets which will, if achieved, have the Blue & White Army ecstatic – and very soon.

Last year Arok outlined his master plan, a plan designed to bring a championship to the club as well as introducing a new crop of star players.

So who could have been surprised when he devastated his playing staff by releasing most of his staff players?

No Boutsianis, Awaritefe, Wade, Muscat, Hasler nor Polak.

That would have almost been unthinkable just a year ago – but Arok told everyone he was going to do it.

It was just that no one was listening, but the Scots listened to him – and then sidestepped a gallant Soccerroo side on their way to the finals.

Now Arok has to justify his axings to a stunned media.

"When did those players ever win a championship?" he asks.



"Remember that it is part of my target for South Melbourne, and to do that I need the kind of players who I think can do just that.

"This current crop will provide exciting entertainment for the public, and we owe it to the club to do just that."

That augurs well for the new season, a new dawn for Australian soccer and a new dawn for the real giant of the game in this country.

For if South Melbourne, and the other two big guns Marconi and Adelaide City, can fire then the game will come to life in Australia once again.

Arok knows that, but he also knows that the game has to be played his way – or not at all.

Nearly thirty years ago he first arrived in Australia as a professional coach in a sea of amateurism and part time professionalism.

He has struggled to try and help his game reach the ultimate

platform and now it would seem that he at last has the means at his disposal to achieve nirvana.

"This is the team," he says, "this is the team that can do it."

Four words, but who won't listen to him now?

Frank Arok is a serious man and it has been my experience that when he talks you stop and listen, only fools don't.

If the man that the Scots called 'Mad Dog' says that this is potentially a better team than last year's which was studded with internationals then South Melbourne will be in for one hell of a year.

Remember that that Scottish team included the likes of Stevie Archibald, Kenny Dalglish, Jim Leighton and Gordon Strachan.

And his unknowns came within a whisker of the impossible.

One hell of a year – one hell of a year

Cosmpolitan focus at Lakeside

"COSMOPOLITAN. That is what this club is," says General Manager Peter Filopoulos. "We've got over ten different nationalities at this club - Frank Arok doesn't care what their background is as long as they can play football."

That is a clear message to the hint of racism which is creeping into the game in Australia as a club, which is proud of its Greek heritage, embraces a host of other cultures.

"We've got so may here," continues Peter.

"New Zealanders, Scots, English, Dutch, Albanian, Serb, Turkish, Italian, Croatian - and of course Greek."

So how does a club with such a mixture of ethnicity

survive, how does it draw its support in a game which has been tagged by the media as ethnic.

"We want all the supporters," says Filopoulos, "not just the Greeks. Most of these boys are born in Australia but they still have their cultural backgrounds - as this club does. But that doesn't mean that we aren't trying to embrace other cultures too."

"That is the beauty of this game, that it can embrace everyone. And if we are going to be successful then we have to do just that."

That should ensure a mixed crowd on the terraces as well as the Cosmopolitan Blues set about the task of bringing the Championship home - for the seventh time.



Ivan Kelic: his Croatian background represents South Melbourne's cultural diversity

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Have the Smurfs of Zurich have gone too far
... is it time to go back to the days when soccer was a

REAL GAME

TALK TO the old-timers and they will tell you of the days when men were men; when footballers played with *real* boots, not the poncy shoes that are worn today; when heading a wet ball meant a headache for a week. Those were the days.

They were also the days when crowds packed into Melbourne soccer grounds to watch matches, when derbies with Heidelberg were the talk of the coffee houses for weeks before – and after.

They were halcyonic days for football in this country and there are many treasured memories of some of the greats of the game who graced South Melbourne's colours.

Naturally, times change and in many cases the changes that have been forced on this game are only for the better. Who could complain at the overall rise in standard of facilities at the majority of Australian grounds, facilities which now offer first class catering?

But some changes have not been for the better and there is a little office full of Smurfs in Zurich who need to be seriously talked to – and sooner rather than later.

Over the last few years we have had to put up with a continual barrage of rule changes from FIFA, some which only seem to make sense if you are fortunate enough to own a TV network – or

are about to receive some lush royalties.

You might also want to argue the wisdom of having the last World Cup in good ole US of A.

Clapped-out and second-rate stadiums, which we were fooled into thinking were amongst the best in the world, without any cover from the boiling sun, rows of concrete which were disguised as seating and an over-commercialisation of the sport were all hallmarks of that particular event.

Sure, TV was great but what about the punter? Is there any chance that a *real* football fan will ever again be able to afford to watch the greatest show on earth, you know the sort of *real* fan who has

made this game what it is. But the latest little gem from FIFA really takes the biscuit.

FIFA News landed on my desk last week with a nice little report on the FIFA/JVC Cup (what next the Marathon/Snickers World Cup?), and confirmation of the fact that South's new Aussie super kid, Daniel Allsop, won the adidas Golden Shoe. But he didn't win it for the most number of goals scored, instead FIFA have a far better system.

Daniel won it for scoring "five goals and one assist". What the hell is an 'assist', and when did the round ball game embrace that all-important feature?

There might well be

some merit in recognising who passes the ball to the scorer, but surely a kiss on the cheek is enough after the ball bulges the net.

That is tradition after all, although as a former striker I can honestly say that I am glad I am too old to have endured this particular era. So what happens, when a shot cannons of the cross bar to another player, or lands at Paul Trimboli's feet after a partial block – is there still an assist?

Maybe we need to have an adjudication panel to pass verdict. Maybe that could be a job for the media – after all we do nothing in the press box other than swill beer and scoff the sandwiches, everyone knows that.

Sometimes the press has a responsibility to the game to itemise particular issues and direct them towards the fans, who after all are the lifeblood of professional sport. This magazine, and its 'sisters' at Sydney United and Marconi, has the largest readership of any publication on Aussie soccer so maybe we have a responsibility to you, the fans.

Or maybe the 'assist' issue is unimportant, maybe we should applaud all of the great ideas from the Smurfs of Zurich. But maybe football was better in the days when Jimmy Armstrong ran out to packed crowds – when it was a *real* game.

Bruce Campbell



*"FIFA – an office full of
Smurfs who seriously need
talken to .."*



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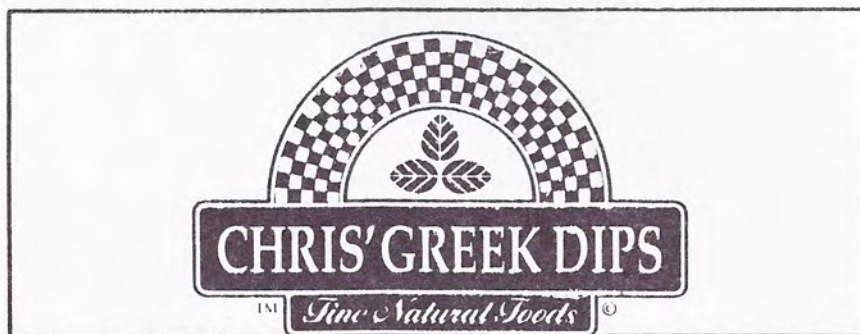
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Those Magic Moments



FANS – they are the lifeblood of the sport and what makes soccer the great game that it is.

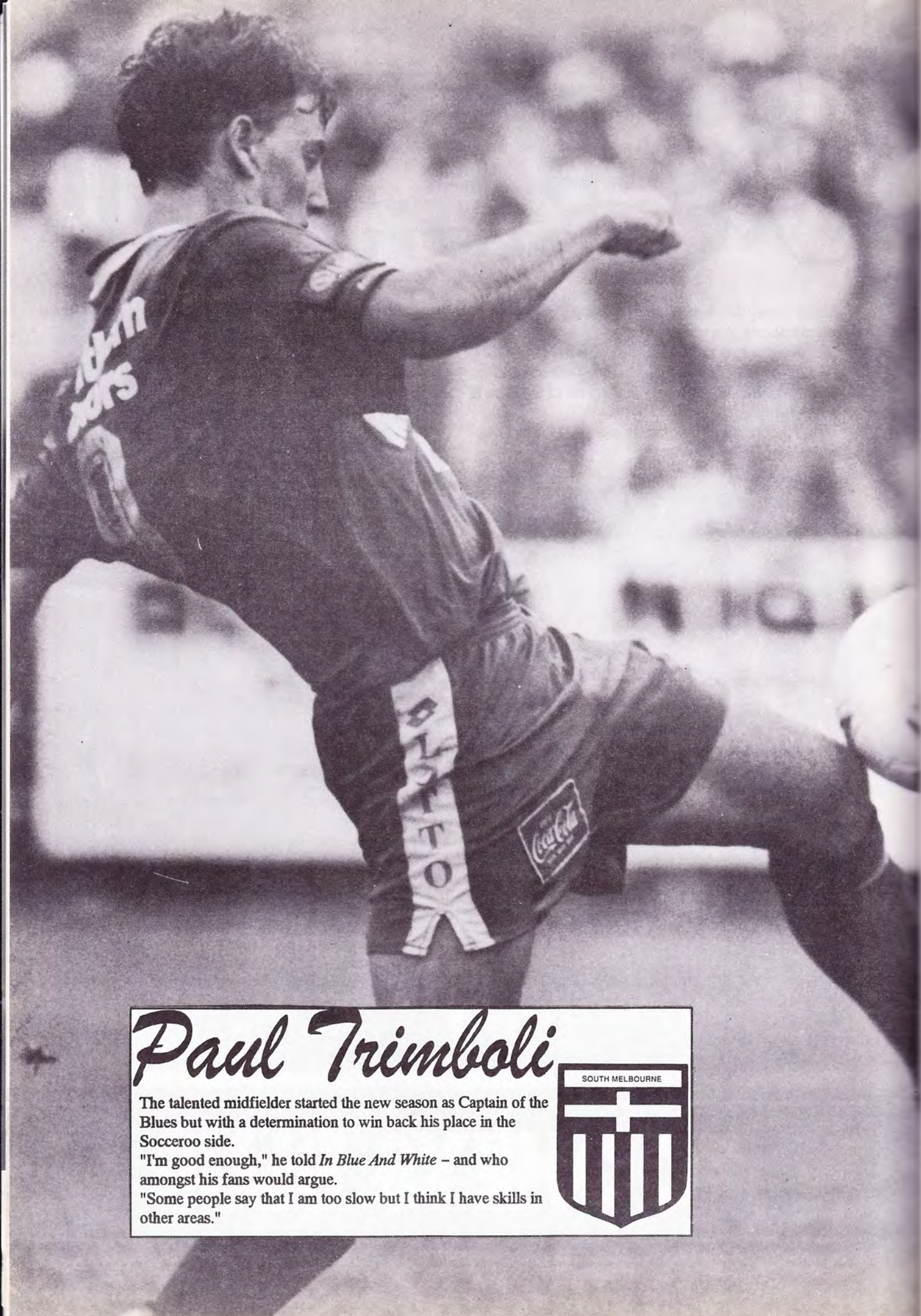
Last season staff cameraman ANDREW DAWSON made the trip northwards for the play-off match with Sydney United – along with thousands of the Blue & White Army.

This is Andrew's photographic tribute to those fans – and a very magic moment.



TOOHEYS BLUE





Paul Trimboli

The talented midfielder started the new season as Captain of the Blues but with a determination to win back his place in the Socceroo side.

"I'm good enough," he told *In Blue And White* – and who amongst his fans would argue.

"Some people say that I am too slow but I think I have skills in other areas."





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1995/95 Ericsson Cup



National Soccer League Fixture List

A twelve team competition of three 'parts' will be played. The first part (Rounds 1-11) will be played with the first named team drawn at home, in the second (Rounds 12-22) the second named team will be drawn at home, and in the third (Rounds 23-33) the first named team will be drawn at home.

ROUND 1: 6/7/8 October

ROUND 12: 8/9/10 December

ROUND 23: 8/9/10 March

Sydney United v West Adelaide

Newcastle v Sydney Olympic

Brisbane Strikers v Marconi-Fairfield

Morwell Falcons v Wollongong City

Adelaide City v Canberra Cosmos

Melbourne Knights v Sth Melbourne

ROUND 2: 13/14/15 October

ROUND 13: 15/16/17 December

ROUND 24: 12/13 March

Canberra Cosmos v Sydney United

South Melbourne v Morwell Falcons

Wollongong City v Adelaide City

Marconi-Fairfield v Newcastle

Olympic v Melbourne Knights

West Adelaide v Brisbane Strikers

ROUND 3: 18/25 Oct, 1 November

ROUND 14: 22/23 December

ROUND 25: 15/16/17 March

Sydney United v Brisbane Strikers

Adelaide City v Sth Melbourne

Canberra Cosmos v Wollongong City

Newcastle Breakers v West Adelaide

Melbourne Knights v Marconi

Morwell Falcons v Sydney Olympic

ROUND 4: 20/21/22 October

ROUND 15: 26 December

ROUND 26: 22/23/24 March

Wollongong City v Sydney United

Marconi-Fairfield v Morwell Falcons

Brisbane Strikers v Newcastle

South Melbourne v Canberra Cosmos

Sydney Olympic v Adelaide City

West Adelaide v Melbourne Knights

ROUND 5: 27/28/29 October

ROUND 16: 29/30 December

ROUND 27: 20/27 March

Sydney United v Newcastle

Wollongong City v South Melbourne

Canberra Cosmos v Sydney Olympic

Morwell Falcons v West Adelaide

Melbourne Knights v Brisbane

Adelaide City v Marconi-Fairfield



South Melbourne had a brilliant end to their season last time up, very nearly going all



A League Football



Canberra Cosmos v West Adelaide
Morwell Falcons v Newcastle
Adelaide City v Brisbane Strikers
South Melbourne v Sydney Olympic

ROUND 8: 17/18/19 November
ROUND 19: 9/10/11 February
ROUND 30: 8 April
Sydney Olympic v Sydney United
Newcastle v Adelaide City
Marconi-Fairfield v South Melbourne
Brisbane Strikers v Canberra Cosmos
West Adelaide v Wollongong City
Melbourne Knights v Morwell

ROUND 9: 24/25/26 November
ROUND 20: 16/17/18 February
ROUND 31: 12/13/14 April
Sydney United v Morwell Falcons
Wollongong City v Brisbane Strikers
Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle
South Melbourne v West Adelaide
Olympic v Marconi-Fairfield
Adelaide City v Melbourne Knights

ROUND 10: 1/2/3 December
ROUND 21: 23/24/25 February
ROUND 32: 19/20/21 April
Marconi-Fairfield v Sydney United
Newcastle v Wollongong City
Brisbane v South Melbourne
Morwell Falcons v Adelaide City
West Adelaide v Sydney Olympic
Melbourne Knights v Canberra

ROUND 11: 6/13 December
ROUND 22: 1/2/3 March
ROUND 33: 28 April
Adelaide City v Sydney United
Wollongong v Melbourne Knights
Canberra Cosmos v Morwell
Marconi-Fairfield v West Adelaide
South Melbourne v Newcastle
Sydney Olympic v Brisbane

the way. Here the team is pictured after disposing of Sydney United in the play-offs.

ROUND 6: 3/4/5 November
ROUND 17: 5/6/7 January
ROUND 28: 29/30/31 March
South Melbourne v Sydney United
Newcastle v Melbourne Knights
Brisbane v Morwell Falcons
Marconi-Fairfield v Canberra Cosmos
Sydney Olympic v Wollongong City

West Adelaide v Adelaide City
ROUND 7: 10/11/12 November
ROUND 18: 2/3/4 February
ROUND 29: 6 April
Sydney United v Melbourne Knights
Wollongong City v Marconi-Fairfield

JANUARY:
Johnnie Walker National Cup
Three Nation International Olympic
Tournament
(teams yet to be named)

ERICSSON CUP THE TOP MARKSMEN

on the scoresheet,
Ivan Kelic



3	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
3	Warren SPINK (Morwell Falcons)
2	Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
1	Francis AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
1	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
1	Matthew BINGLEY (Marconi-Fairfield)
1	Damian BROWN (Newcastle Breakers)
1	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
1	Craig FOSTER (Adelaide City)
1	Robbie HOOKER (West Adelaide)
1	Ivan KELIC (South Melbourne)
1	Brad MALONEY (Marconi-Fairfield)
1	Tony PERINICH (Wollongong Wolves)
1	Michael REDA (Morwell Falcons)
1	Kimon TALIADOROS (UTS Olympic)
1	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
1	Peter TSEKENIS (UTS Olympic)

1994/95 NSL TOP SCORER:
Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights) - 17 goals

ALL TIME TOP SCORER:
John Kosmina (Sydney City) 23 goals 1982

1994/95 FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	Pw	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	24	16	4	2	4	56	25	70
Adelaide City	24	16	4	1	4	41	20	69
Sydney United	24	15	5	3	4	34	19	68
Morwell Falcons	24	8	11	4	5	41	37	47
West Adelaide	24	8	8	5	8	41	37	45
South Melbourne	24	9	5	3	10	42	36	44
Brisbane Strikers	24	8	6	3	10	34	32	41
Wollongong City	24	8	4	2	12	39	46	38
Sydney Olympic	24	8	4	1	12	27	34	37
Marconi-Fairfield	24	6	7	4	11	34	43	35
Melbourne SC	24	6	6	4	12	20	37	34
Parramatta Eagles	24	7	3	2	14	25	34	33
Heidelberg United	24	6	3	1	15	27	53	28

SOUTH MELBOURNE PLAYER FIGURES

TOP SCORER 94/95: Ivan Kelic - 13 goals

ALL TIME ONE SEASON TOP SCORER:
Doug Brown - 22 goals season 1984

NSL GOALS RECORD: Charlie Egan - 73

NSL APPEARANCE RECORD: Steve Blair - 338

1995/96 ERICSSON CUP PLAYER APPEARANCES

02	Anastasiadis
02	Anthopoulos
02	Baser
02	Coveny
01	Curcija
01	Damianos
02	Kelic
02	Kuzmanovic
01	Lewis
02	Mangos
02	Nikolic
02	Petersen
01	Sherifovski
02	Trimboli



* match details and goal scorers do not include
Wednesday night match with Adelaide City

the next Ericsson Cup Match at Olympic Park



v



Sydney United
Sunday, 5 November 1995
KICK OFF 8.00pm

acts&figuresfacts&figuresfact

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



ERICSSON CUP ROUND 2

Morwell Falcons 0
South Melbourne 1 (Kelic 8)
Venue: Falcons Park
Att: 4,183 Referee: G Connolly

Canberra Cosmos 0
Sydney United 0
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Att: 4,594 Referee: C Diomis

Marconi-Fairfield 2 (Maloney 61, Awaritefe 85)
Newcastle Breakers 0
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Att: 4,597 Referee: C Naumcevski

UTS Olympic 1 (Trajanovski 40)
Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Att: 6,300 Referee: B Hugo

West Adelaide 1 (Hooker 48)
Brisbane Strikers 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Att: 3,400 Referee: W Dade

Wollongong City 0
Adelaide City 2 (Mori 51, Foster 53)
Venue: Brandon Park
Att: 3,005 Referee: S Micallef

ERICSSON CUP ROUND 1

Melbourne Knights 1 (own goal)
South Melbourne 0
Venue: Croatian Sports Centre
Att: 8,000 Referee: E Brazzale

94/95 NSL - FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi-Fairfield	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Adelaide City	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
UTS Olympic	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
West Adelaide	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Morwell Falcons	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
South Melbourne	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Melbourne Knights	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Sydney United	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Newcastle Breakers	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Canberra Cosmos	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Brisbane Strikers	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Wollongong City	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

* does not include midweek fixtures

Les Scheinflug Youth Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIS	1	1	0	0	7	0	3
South Melbourne	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Heidelberg United	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Bulleen	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Springvale City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Melbourne Knights	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Altona Magic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morwell Falcons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Melbourne	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Green Gully	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
North Geelong	1	0	0	1	0	7	0

NSL NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.
OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

THE BLUES SQUAD

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Con Blatsis
- 3 Steve Mangos
- 4 Alek Kuzmanovic
- 5 Mike Valkanis
- 6 Con Anthopoulos
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveny
- 9 Paul Trimboli (C)
- 10 Ivan Kelic
- 11 Ajim Sherifovski
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 Craig Lewis
- 14 Michael Petersen
- 15 Nick Papadopoulos
- 16 Tansell Baser
- 17 Sasa Nikolic
- 18 Michael Curcija
- 19 Daniel Alsopp
- 20 Michael Lilikakis
- 21 Alex Duric
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29

BLUE SHIRTS, BLUE SHORTS, WHITE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP



LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

- v Morwell Falcons (23.4.95) WON 5-1 Top Six
- v Melbourne Knights (9.4.95) DREW 1-1
- v Melbourne SC (02.4.95) WON 1-0
- v Sydney United (18.3.95) LOST 0-1
- v Parramatta Eagles (4.3.95) DREW 1-1
- v Wollongong City (5.3.95) WON 3-1

LAST SEASON:

This is Canberra Cosmos first season in the Ericsson Cup A League competition.

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CANBERRA



GREY SHIRTS, GREY SHORTS, WHITE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

MILOSEVIC

WADE

DEE

DUNN

WATSON

J GAGETTI

A POPOVIC

BAXTER

GARCIA

McVITTIE

PERINOVIC

COACH: Mike Lyons

COSMOS SQUAD

Danny Milosevic	1
Paul Dee	2
Joe Gagetti	3
Richard Watson	4
Jason Dunn	5
Paul Wade (C)	6
Michael Garcia	7
Paul McVittie	8
Lachlan Armstrong	9
Marko Perinovic	10
Toplica Popovich	11
Arsenije Popovich	12
Paul Gagetti	13
Jimmy Baxter	14
Willie Hastie	15
Scott Conlon	16
Leo Langone	17
Alan Strachan	18
Elliot Zwangobani	19
Ben Harris	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
	25
	26
	27
	28
	29

LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

v Adelaide City LOST 0-2 (7.10.95)

CURRENT FORM: The Blues have had a good start to the season and should easily dispose of new boys Canberra. But it should be a closer call than some might predict due largely to the big Canberra back line, their style of play and the brilliance of young 'keeper, Danny Milosevic. Prediction: 2-0 home win.

THE COSMOS

Wadey set for hot reception with tough guys Canberra

CANBERRA COSMOS are on a high after taking their first ever A League point last weekend at home to the stylish Sydney United in front of a large and parochial crowd at Bruce Stadium.

"It was great to get the point," says coach Mike Lyons, "but it will be even better when we get our first goal and then a full three points for a win."

Lyons has selection problems for the weekend trip to South Melbourne with striker Lachlan Armstrong also sitting out a mandatory one match suspension after being sent off against United.

Armstrong was red-carded following a second bookable offence for a dangerous high kick and his absence will be a blow to Canberra's hopes of sneaking an away win.

"To be honest, everything is against us just now," admitted assistant coach Ian Heywood after the Sydney United match.

"We have to fight for every point we get because this team will take time to mould."

"But there are some good players in the side



and we can do well in the A League."

A fierce critic of the Cosmos style of play was United coach Branko Culina who lambasted the Cosmos after dropping points which should have been his for the taking.

Despite Canberra goalie Danny Milosevic playing the game of his life Sydney United should have scored at least three, maybe part of the reason for Culina's frustration.

"They played like thugs," he said after the game, "the A League doesn't need teams like Canberra, we need skill and style, not brute

force."

Culina was undoubtedly angered after his star midfielder Ante Moric was stretchered off to hospital after being concussed. Added to that were a long string of battered players and after the match his dressing room resembled a war hospital.

But Mike Lyons, the former Everton star, has defended his side's style of play, claiming that they have just as much talent as biff and bash.

He says that his hard-man tactics are necessary so his new team doesn't become the whipping boys of the

League as Culina predicted before the big kick off.


"No way," slams Lyons, "that won't happen."

"We are a good team but we need to adopt certain tactics until the players mould into a more balanced side."

"But I'm happy with the way things have gone – and now we are looking forward to the game against South Melbourne."

So too is Cosmos skipper Paul Wade, the former South idol who is sure of a hot reception on his return to Melbourne.

Bruce Campbell

A black and white photograph of a man, Paul Wade, saluting with his right arm raised. He is wearing a dark jacket with a large white star on the left chest and a triangular patch on the right chest that features a soccer ball and the text 'ERICKSON' and 'C.F.P.'. The background is dark and out of focus.

PAUL WADE salutes the boisterous Canberra crowd after their home debut last weekend against Sydney United. Now he is in the mood for another party – in Melbourne.

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Sharks for Lakeside debut

WEST ADELAIDE
Sharks will be the visitors when South Melbourne launches its new home, Lakeside Stadium.

"November 26 is the date being set for the official opening of the ground," says a club official, "although there is still a lot of work to be done."

"But the construction crew is working round the clock to get it ready on time and it should be a big day for South Melbourne and the entire soccer community in Melbourne."

The ground was recently featured on SBS's *On The Ball* and is starting to look like the sort of facility which will embrace the sport in the new millenium.

"It is a fabulous set up", adds General Manager Peter Filopoulos.

"It is something we have dreamed about for so many years and now it is really happening."

"It is an exciting time for South Melbourne - now all we need to cap it all off is a championship."

The next home game against Sydney United should be the last that the club has to play in its temporary Olympic Park home after having to shift last season to accommodate the Victorian State Government's Grand Prix plans.

"South is a part of the community," continues Filopoulos, "and sure it



an emotional Farewell to Middle Park - now South Melbourne is set to vacate its temporary home for the brand new custom-built Lakeside Stadium.

was sad to leave Middle Park.

"But life is life and we have to move on too."

"If we have to make a sacrifice for the

betterment of the Melbourne, and Victorian, community then that is the way it goes."

"But no-one will be disappointed when we

move to Lakeside Stadium - it really will be state of the art and our supporters will be able to enjoy all of the comforts."

Valkanis called up

Michael Valkanis has been listed amongst the twenty one players who have been called up to the Olyroo squad which goes into camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra next week.

A regular spot in the Blues first team last year did his international prospects no harm at all and he is expected to be a strong contender for a first team spot in the Olympic qualifying games.

"Mike is a good, quality defender who will do well at this level," says an ASF spokesman.

The Olyroos will play against Japan in Canberra next week as part of their preparations for the Oceania Qualifiers which will be held in Adelaide in January.

The squad flies into the AIS on Monday and will leave on Friday after playing Japan on Thursday evening.

ALL CHANGE, ALL CHANGE



ERICSSON
CUP

No more penalty shoot outs, no more four points for a win – and it's almost back to normal in this season's A League as Soccer Australia adopts a system of 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss.

It seems that Australia is at last falling into FIFA line with its rules for major competition although the Grand Final will still be decided by a penalty shoot out if necessary.

Last season Dean Anastasiadis (pictured right) was a star of the penalty shoot outs,

showing the kind of form which has catapulted him into Frank Arok's plans and brought him to the fringe of Socceroo squad call-up.

There is little doubt that the shoot out was a big hit with the fans, particularly the kids who rushed behind the goals at the end of the regulation time.

But the obvious cry of lack of consistency is levelled fairly at the game's administrators who have now introduced major changes to the league for the last six successive seasons.



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Mike Petersen

HAS BEEN A favourite at South Melbourne for so many years now that he has almost become an institution.

In his time the tough-tackling midfielder has worn the Socceroo colours as well as a spell overseas with Ajax of Amsterdam and latterly in Malaysia.

Now he is very much part of coach Frank Arok's plans to rebuild the club with the accent on youth – but with a few wise older heads to guide the new stars along.



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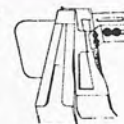
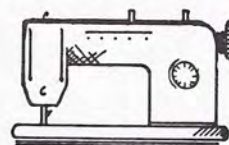
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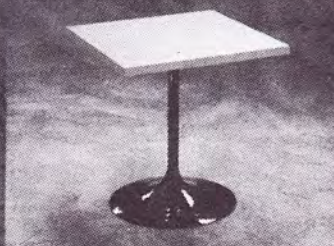
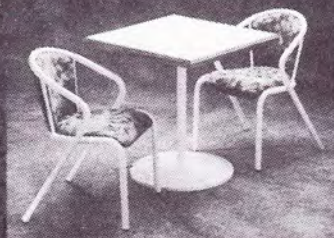
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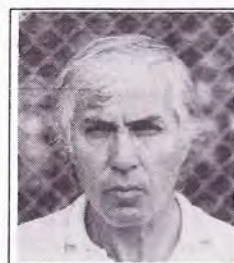
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